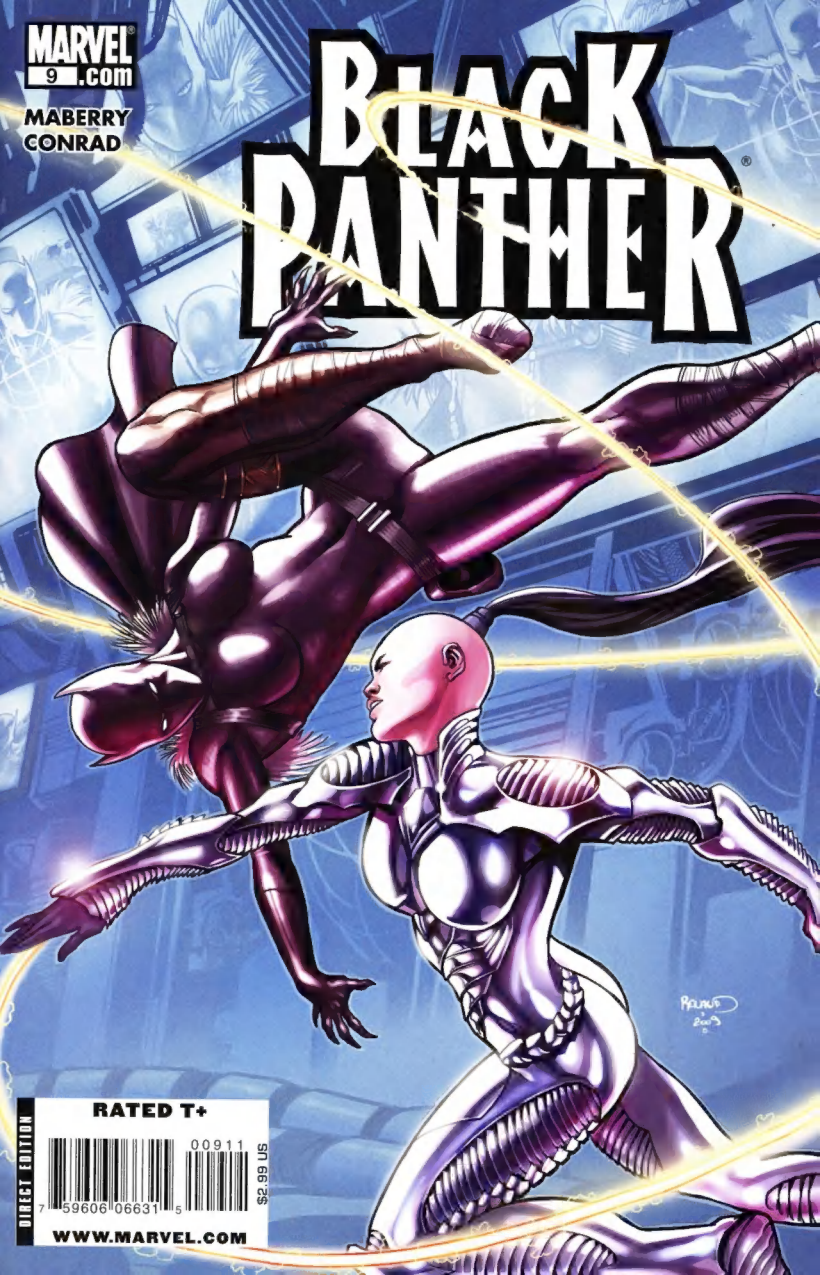
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BLACK PANTHER

POWER
PART 3

Since the dawn of time, the proud African warrior nation of Wakanda has evolved as a high-tech, resource-rich, ecologically sound paradise unmatched anywhere else in the world. Their ruler is the Black Panther, Wakanda's religious, political, and military leader and the embodiment of the ideals of the nation.

Since the assassination attempt on T'Challa, ruler of Wakanda, his sister Shuri has taken up the mantel of BLACK PANTHER, as well as acting as Princess Regent to her country.

On a diplomatic mission to the U.S., Shuri is ambushed by cybernetically augmented soldiers. Her investigation following the attack puts her on the trail of a mysterious group that salvages weapons and technology from the battlefields super heroes leave behind. But how did this group get their hands on top-secret Wakandan technology?

The trail leads the Black Panther to one of the group's hideouts where she is ambushed by another cyber-warrior named Ohyaku.

Meanwhile, T'Challa continues to attempt to repair his broken body and spirit. He still won't reveal who it was that attempted to assassinate him, even to his closest friends.

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SORRY, LITTLE KITTY.
YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT FOR AN AMATEUR.
BUT YOU'RE TOO MUCH OF AN--OW!
WHAK!
SHUT
THE HELL
UP!
KRAK!
ZZZTKT --INCESS-EAR ME- REPEAT: PRINCESS- CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A PARTY.
I'M TRACKING TWENTY REPEAT TWENTY--HOSTILES INBOUND TO YOUR LOCATION.

DAMN.
E.T.A.?
NOW!
PRINCESS--
MOVE!
BWOOOM
M'YRA! I NEED HARD EXTRACTION NOW!
ROGER THAT. E.T.A. FIFTEEN SECONDS.
DON'T BE NICE ABOUT IT.
COMING IN WEAPONS HOT!
HERE KITTY, KITTY!

AIIIIEEEE!
GOT YOU, PRINCESS!
M'YRA-- FLOOR IT!
WE'RE GOING TO GET FRIED FOR THIS.
RELAX, BOYS. THIS COULDN'T HAVE GONE BETTER.

THE HERBS YOU'VE TAKEN, THE RUNES PAINTED ON YOUR FLESH--THEY BUT OPEN THE DOOR, MY LORD.
THIS ADMIXTURE WILL PUSH YOU THROUGH
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. I NEED THIS TO GIVE ME WHAT I CAN'T GET FROM WEIGHTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND TRAINING, ZAWAVARI.
I NEED POWER.
REST ASSURED, THIS MAY NOT BE THE SAFEST PATHWAY TO WHAT YOU SEEK. BUT NO OTHER ROUTE IS FASTER.
THE ONLY QUESTION IS WHETHER THE DAMAGED VESSEL OF YOUR BODY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTAIN THE POWER YOU SEEK.
MANY OTHERS HAVE TRIED. MOST OF THEM DIED SCREAMING.
SAVE YOUR WARNINGS FOR SOMEONE WHO HASN'T ALREADY SEEN THE FACE OF HIS OWN DEATH.

I DID WARN YOU.
DAMN IF I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

...AND NOW WE'VE COME TO THIS. AFTER CENTURIES OF FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AND EVEN FINANCIAL SUPERIORITY, TWO OF OUR MAJOR BANKS HAVE FAILED.
ECONOMIC CRISIS HITS WAKANDA.
TWO BANKS OUT OF TWENTY, N'DEGA. LET'S NOT DESCEND TO PANIC JOURNALISM HERE.
WVOX LIVE
THESE TWO BANKS ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN SIXTY PERCENT OF WAKANDA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THEY'VE SUCCUMBED TO THE FISCAL VIRUS THAT HAS BEEN WEAKENING ECONOMIES AROUND THE WORLD.
ERNATIONAL TRADE BANK OF
TOCKS DROP 132 POINTS IN
THE EFFECT ON THESE TWO BANKS REFLECTS THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH FOREIGN TRADE, BUT IT'S FAR TOO SOON TO VIEW IT AS AN INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION OUR OWN ECONOMY WILL TAKE.
WVOX LIVE
WAKANDA HAS INCURRED A NATIONAL DEBT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY!
WAKANDA FOR WAKANDANS
JOBS LOST TO FOREIGN WORK!
AND WHERE IS OUR ROYAL FAMILY DURING THIS CRISIS? WHERE IS OUR LEADERSHIP?
WVOX LIVE
ORORO AND THE QUEEN MOTHER ARE--
WVOX
THE QUEEN MOTHER SHOULD BE IN RETIREMENT, NOT HUSTLING SPIN CONTROL FOR AN ABSENTEE PRINCESS REGENT.
AND WHY IS ORORO EVEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS? SHE'S A FOREIGNER AND SHE'S NO LONGER QUEEN.
NO. THE SOFT LIBERAL VIEW OF 'THIS TOO SHALL PASS' IS AKIN TO BURYING YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND. WAKANDA IS TURNING INTO A RUNAWAY TRAIN...
AND THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE AT THE CONTROLS.

REPORT, N'IIX.
WE BEGAN RUNNING THE DECRYPTION AS SOON AS YOU DOWNLOADED THE DATA.
REMEMBER I SAID THAT HELLERMAN EXPORTS WAS TIED TO THE BROKER--A MAN WHO HAS MADE A FORTUNE SELLING STOLEN TECHNOLOGIES TO TERRORIST GROUPS. WELL, AT LEAST TEN OF THE BROKER'S KNOWN CLIENTS ARE IN THE SHIPPING MANIFESTS. ANOTHER DOZEN ARE LISTED IN THE ACCOUNTING FILES.
THERE ARE ALSO CLIENTS IDENTIFIED ONLY BY INITIALS. AND THAT'S WHERE WE MIGHT BE STEPPING INTO VERY DANGEROUS WATERS. NO PUN INTENDED.
SPEAK TO ME.
THE BROKER KEEPS VERY DETAILED RECORDS ON HIS CLIENTS, INCLUDING SURVEILLANCE. NOT SURE WHY. PARANOIA OR FEAR OF BEING IMPLICATED BY THEM TO WORLD GOVERNMENTS.
POINT IS, THERE'S A FILE THAT DETAILS AT LEAST FORTY TRANSACTIONS WITH SOMEONE SELLING "ATL SALV."
ATLANTEAN SALVAGE. ALMOST CERTAINLY.
THE CLIENT HAS BEEN PAID OVER A BILLION FOR THESE MATERIALS. LIKE MANY OF THE BIGGEST CLIENTS HE'S KNOWN ONLY BY A CODENAME:
REX.
REX?
SOMEONE SELLING ATLANTEAN TECHNOLOGY. NICKNAMED REX.
UM...PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THAT WE'RE ALL THINKING THE SAME THING HERE.

--AND STILL THERE ARE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS REGARDING THE TERRORIST ATTACK THAT NEARLY CLAIMED THE LIFE OF THE FORMER KING OF WAKANDA.
WAKANDAN OFFICIALS ARE STRANGELY SILENT ABOUT THE ATTACK, BUT A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT SAID THAT EVERYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE IS BEING DONE TO IDENTIFY AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

WE NEED MORE TO GO ON, N'IIX.
THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF RECORDS, PRINCESS.
I'VE SENT MOST OF IT TO MY TEAM BACK HOME VIA SECURE LINK.
BRRIIIINGGGG
--AND YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THAT?
EXCELLENT WORK. CODE THE DATA AND SEND IT TO ZAKAR'S PDA.
WE HAVE A LEAD, PRINCESS.
THE DECRYPTION TEAM HAS FOUND RECORDS OF SUBSTANTIAL MONEY TRANSFERS TO TWO FORMER WAKANDA NATIONALS.
BOTH FORMER MILITARY. BOTH IN POSITION TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE MICROCHIPS USED IN THE WRIST CANNONS IN THE ATTACK ON THE MOTORCADE. BOTH LIVING HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. MILITARY RECORDS, PHOTOS AND LAST KNOWN ADDRESSES ARE BEING DOWNLOADED TO ZAKAR'S SECURITY PDA.
GOT IT. ONE IN PHILADELPHIA, THE OTHER IN BROOKLYN. PLACE CALLED "CONEY ISLAND."
I'LL HEAD TO BROOKLYN.
ZAKAR, YOU AND M'YRA FOLLOW THE PHILADELPHIA LEAD. N'IIX, YOU STAY HERE AND KEEP DIGGING, ESPECIALLY ON OUR FRIEND REX.
IF WE'RE GUESSING WRONG ON THAT, IT COULD BLOW UP IN OUR FACES.
FIND ME PROOF. NOT GUESSES. PROOF.

YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE.
I DO. DO YOU?
YES. I NEED TO KNOW WHAT I MUST DO TO SAVE MY COUNTRY!
THAT IS THE WRONG QUESTION
FIRST ASK WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO SAVE YOURSELF.

DR. RICHARDS, I APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING MY CALL.
MY PLEASURE, SHURI. YOU KNOW YOU CAN CALL ON ME ANY TIME.
HOW IS T'CHALLA? HE HASN'T RETURNED MY CALLS.
HE'S COMING ALONG, BUT HE'S STUBBORN. HE DOESN'T LIKE HELP FROM ANYONE.
T'CHALLA WAS NEVER TALKATIVE AT THE BEST OF TIMES. GIVE HIM SOME TIME-- HE'LL COME AROUND.
NOW, I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T CALL JUST TO GOSSIP WITH AN OLD EGGHEAD. WHAT CAN I DO FOR THE PRINCESS REGENT OF WAKANDA?
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
OH NO, MR. THING-- DON'T HURT ME!
OR THE BLACK PANTHER?
MY P.R.I.D.E.* HAS UNCOVERED SOME VERY DISTURBING LINKS BETWEEN THE WEAPONS USED IN THE ATTACK ON ME AND AN OLD FRIEND OF YOURS.
OH? WHO?
PRINCE NAMOR.
SHURI... TELL ME EVERYTHING.
*PRINCESS REGENT INTELLIGENCE DIVISION EXECUTIVES -EDITOR

YOU'VE WANDERED LONG IN DARK PLACES, MY LORD. TOO LONG.
ARE YOU LOST?
DO YOU LIVE, MY LORD?
OH YES... I LIVE.

...WE'RE TALKING WITH FORMER QUEEN ORORO.
WVOX
WVOX
WVOX
PRINCESS, BANKS ARE FAILING, THE STOCK MARKET GETS SOFTER EACH DAY, AND VOICES ARE BEING RAISED IN PROTEST. WHAT'S BEHIND WAKANDA'S CURRENT CRISIS?
IS IT--AS MANY SUGGEST--THE ABSENCE OF OUR PRINCESS REGENT AT A TIME WHEN GUIDANCE IS MOST CRITICAL?
WVOX
WITH ALL THAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD, AND WITH THE CHALLENGES WE'VE FACED HERE IN WAKANDA, THERE'S A RATHER COMMON TENDENCY TO USE KNEE-JERK TERMS LIKE CRISIS AS A BLANKET LABEL.
THAT KIND OF THINKING SHOWS LITTLE FAITH IN WHO WE ARE AS A PEOPLE. AND NO FAITH AT ALL IN PRINCESS REGENT SHURI.
WVOX
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY AN ABSENTEE RULER. SINCE ASCENDING THE THRONE SHE HAS SPENT MORE TIME ABROAD THAN HERE WHERE SHE BELONGS--
WVOX
I HAVE GREAT FAITH THAT PRINCESS REGENT SHURI IS EXACTLY WHERE SHE BELONGS...
WVOX
"...AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SHE IS DOING EVERYTHING SHE NEEDS TO DO TO KEEP THIS COUNTRY SAFE.
"FROM ENEMIES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC."

FISCAL CRISIS
IS SPIDER-MAN TO BLAME FOR ECONOMIC DISASTER?
I ♥ NY
FLEA? WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME?
D'ARLIN: AGE 35, WAKANDAN NATIONAL LIVING UNDER THE ALIAS OF "DARIUS ARUN" HERE IN THE STATES. FALSE PASSPORT IDENTIFYING HIM AS A SUDANESE.
ENLISTED IN WAKANDAN AIRFORCE. QUICK PROMOTION TO OFFICER TRAINING AND FLIGHT SCHOOL. SPECIALIZED IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS. PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN, WORKED AS A TEST PILOT.
WHY DID HE LEAVE?
INJURED IN A CRASH, TOOK MEDICAL RETIREMENT. GIVEN A HEFTY SEVERANCE, BUT SHORTLY AFTERWARD LEFT WAKANDA. THAT WAS TWO YEARS AGO.
SINCE THEN, NOTHING ON THE PUBLIC RADAR. BUT THE DECRYPTED INFO FROM THE BROKER NAMES HIM AS A SOURCE FOR TARGETING SYSTEM MICROCHIPS.
Princess-Cam
GOOD ENOUGH. STAY ONLINE.
PRINCESS-- MY SECURITY SENSORS JUST WENT INTO THE RED.
CLICK!
HE'S RABBITING!

BAA-ROOOOM!!
PRINCESS! ACTIVATE YOUR SHOCK-SHIELD.
PRINCESS!
OH GOD.

DON'T PLAY WITH IT GIRL. DOOMBOTS AREN'T TOYS. THEY ARE PROGRAMMED TO ADAPT TO EVERYTHING YOU DO.
STAY IN MOTION. NEVER REPEAT AN ACTION. DON'T DEFEND--ATTACK!
UGGHH!
SHE DID THAT EVADE AND BLOCK COMBINATION ALREADY. THE DOOMBOTS ARE ALREADY ADAPTING. DAMN IT---NO!
BELOVED--NO!
GO RIGHT FOR THE KILL!
SHOW NO MERCY.
NO HESITATION.

KRAKA-THOOM!
BELOVED... THAT WAS MAGNIFICENT.
YOU ARE MORE FIT AND POWERFUL THAN EVER.
IT'S MIRACULOUS.

PRINCESS--
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT?
NO, FLEA...
I DON'T THINK I AM.
OH, YES, MY PRETTY KITTY.

YOU'RE A LONG, LONG WAY FROM 'ALL RIGHT.'
POWER
PART 3
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT MONTH IN BLACK PANTHER #10

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